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Recd. July 24/75
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Rev. Samuel May

Leicester,

Mass.

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The letter where the writer is ill.

Roxbury, July 23, 1875.

Dear friend May:

I meant to have replied to your note concerning Mr. B. W. Elmy, of England, at an earlier day. I showed him what attentions I could during the short time he was under my roof, and regretted he had limited himself to so short a period before returning home. — I became much interested in him, as he seemed to be a remarkably intelligent, pure-minded, conscientious and uncompromising reformer, such as seldom comes to us from the old world. He evinced much interest and gratification in all that he saw and heard while here, and was so fortunate as to be present with me at the delivery of James Freeman Clarke's oration in Music Hall on the 5th of July — a very sensible and effective exposition of the inherent value of our republican institutions as contrasted with

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the forms and prerogatives of European governments. At the last moment of taking his leave, Mr. Elmy concluded to make you a visit on his way to New York, if only for an hour or two; so that I could only send you Miss Estlin's letter in regard to him, without an introductory note from me. I forgot to tell him that, in case he should find no stage conveyance to Leicester on his arrival at Worcester, he could obtain a chaise or buggy at any livery stable in that city. It was certainly a long and an uphill walk for him to take, and as the weather was uncomfortably warm, (at least it was so in Boston,) he must have been not a little fatigued at the end of his journey. I am glad (and Miss Estlin will be equally so) that he found you at home; and it was characteristically kind on your part to "give him a lift back" to the Worcester train. By this time he is probably under his own roof. He expressed great abhorrence of the Contagious Diseases Acts, now causing so much agitation in England

for their immediate repeal; and on my asking him what would be the effect of a strong but respectful testimony against those Acts, signed by a number of well-known friends of freedom and humanity in this country, and sent to Mrs. Josephine Butler for publication in England, he replied that he had no doubt as to its exerting a happy influence. It happens, unfortunately, that the subject is one not understood among us; and as there is always a false delicacy prevailing in regard to a public discussion of the sexual relations, and as such testimony might be regarded as an unwise interference by some who otherwise might be disposed to sign it, I am not quite clear in my mind as to how such a proposition would be received, or as to the persons to whom to apply for their signatures. Can you suggest any names? And what do you think of the measure? At least a score of names of good men and women, known more or less in England, ought to be secured to be effective.

Last week I spent three days very pleasantly, in company with some Boston friends, at the Old Orchard House, Old Orchard Beach, Me. Last Wednesday night the immense establishment was wholly destroyed by fire — undoubtedly the act of an incendiary, as the bathing-houses on the Beach had been previously set on fire. The loss is estimated as high as $100,000, and, strange to say, there was no insurance. Happily, no lives were lost.

To-morrow I think of making a hasty trip to Appledore Island, (Isles of Shoals,) in company with Frank, returning on Monday. I am in comfortable health, but not strong. Wife and I enjoy our frequent rides together in the beautiful suburbs of the city, and derive much benefit from them. She joins me in affectionate remembrances to you and Mrs. May. Fanny is happily located again at Heidelberg, with her husband and little ones.

Ever truly yours, Wm. Lloyd Garrison

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